



FACTS

about
Connecticut
Women

Connecticut General Assembly

Permanent Commission on the Status of Women

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Strengthen Workforce Readiness of Low-Wage Workers and People on TFA

Connecticut needs programs to increase the education and skills of entry-level job-seekers

- Pilot program to provide adult basic education combined with skill training for recipients of Temporary Family Assistance (*funds in Appropriations budget; formerly H.B. 5024*)
- Pilot program to assist some low-wage job seekers to pursue education and skill training at community colleges (*formerly S.B. 146*)

Connecticut needs policies to allow TFA recipients and low-wage workers enough time and support to obtain employment to meet their family's basic needs

- Exempt people with limited ability to work from time limits (*formerly S.B. 479*)
- Increase eligibility and funding for Care4Kids childcare assistance (*in Appropriations budget; and H.B. 5507*)

Adult education and job training increases earnings and economic self-sufficiency

- According to U.S. Census data for Connecticut, the difference between having a high school diploma or equivalent and not having one is worth \$7,000 per year in wages for women.

- Obtaining a two-year Associate's degree is worth more than \$9,000 more per year.¹

Many people currently on TFA do not have high school diplomas or adequate skills to obtain employment

- According to the CT Department of Labor, more than a third of the 8,700 people in the time-limited Jobs First program have not completed high school.²
- Only 12% of participants in the Jobs First Employment program have any education beyond high school.³

Education is a good investment

- A person trapped in a minimum wage job with no skills or opportunity for advancement will earn only a little over \$15,000 per year – not enough to pay the bills.
- If a welfare recipient attends one year of a higher education program, her earning capacity will increase nearly \$10,000 - from approximately \$19,000 per year to approximately \$28,500.
- If a low-wage woman worker completes a second year of higher education, her earning capacity will rise to approximately \$35,600.

¹ U.S. Census, Current Population Survey, 2003

² *At-A-Squint, Jobs First Employment Services Participants Served by CTWorks, September 2005.*

³ *At-A-Squint, Jobs First Employment Services Participants Served by CTWorks, September, 2005*